Daily Report

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26 May Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2605132088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Withdrawal East of Basra—Tehran radio acknowledged that Iranian forces "had to withdraw from part of the captured positions" in the Shalamcheh area, noting that this followed an "intense encounter" with enemy forces. The admission from Tehran followed proclamations by Iraq that its forces had recaptured territory east of Basra seized by Iran during its big offensive between December 1986 and April 1987. Communiques broadcast by Baghdad and Voice of the Masses radios stated that the Iraqi Presidential Guard and III Army Corps drove the Iranians out of Iraqi territory in a three-stage offensive, destroying five Iranian divisions and taking many prisoners. The Iraqis reportedly regained control of the Jasim and Du'ayji rivers, the southern tip of the Fish Lake, the Tawilah Island, and two border posts, thereby liberating land for whose occupation Iran paid "400,000 casualties" and mobilized "all" its armed forces in 1987. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn personally supervised the operation, INA noted. The agency indicated that the offensive was designed to safeguard Basra from Iran's "aggressive objectives" and to knock out Iranian artillery positions which used to regularly shell Basra.

Among other war reportage, an Iranian communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian aircraft carried out 20 sorties against Iraqi positions in the Shalamcheh area. An Iraqi spokesman asserted that Iraqi helicopters downed two Iranian helicopters on the northern front, according to Voice of the Masses. INA carried a military statement denying Iranian claims that Iraqi aircraft bombed residential areas in Sar Dasht and Mazandaran.

Iranian Naval Power—Iran's "Zolfaqar-3" exercise was "more comprehensive and more effective" than previous naval maneuvers, and it involved a larger number of ships, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i stated in remarks reported by Tehran radio. A radio report on the exercise maintained that "tens" of naval and air units participated, including destroyers, frigates, and "aircraft carriers." The display "invalidated the false claims of arrogance's media about the diminishing combat capability of the navy," the radio contended.

Lebanon

IDF Operations—Israeli aircraft attacked a "terrorist" base at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp the night of 25 May, Jerusalem radio announced, noting that the pilots reported hits on their targets. Beirut radio reported that the attack near Sidon was carried out by Cobra helicopters, which fired four sets of guided missiles. At least three people were wounded in the raid, the radio added.

On the operation in areas north of Al-Nabatiyah, an IDF communique cited by Jerusalem radio stated that IDF and South Lebanese Army (SLA) units had attacked "terrorist" centers in and around the village of Al-Luwayzah, which was a frontline Hizballah base used as a starting point for attacks against the IDF and SLA in the security strip. Buildings and military equipment were destroyed in the attack, during which the SLA combed the village, supported by fire from IDF infantry, artillery, armored vehicles, and aircraft. There were no IDF casualties, the communique noted, but five SLA soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. The head of the IDF Northern Command said the operation was another warning that any village which Hizballah turns into a fortified garrison will be totally destroyed, Jerusalem television reported. He also stressed that Al-Luwayzah was empty of villagers, and only contained Hizballah personnel, according to Jerusalem radio.

On casualties sustained by Hizballah and others resisting the IDF-SLA operation, Beirut radio cited reports that 12 fighters of the "Islamic Resistance Front" were killed and 16 missing, and that 3 Amal Movement members were also killed and 10 wounded. Jerusalem television estimated that around 20 Hizballah gunmen were killed. Beirut radio also cited an unconfirmed Amal claim that an Israeli helicopter was shot down.

Voice of Lebanon radio and other Lebanese stations reported that Israeli aircraft carried out further strikes in the area north of Al-Nabatiyah 26 May.

Southern Suburb—The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council issued a statement calling on Amal and Hizballah to reach an understanding under the aegis of the Council, Beirut radio reported. The statement rejected any linkage between the fate of the suburb and the issue of foreign hostages. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss returned from Damascus after discussing the situation in the suburb with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the radio noted. In Amman, AL-RA'Y published an interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in which he denied that he is Hizballah's "spiritual leader." Fadlallah said he is "with the Islamic framework in general," but stressed that he does not work with Hizballah and is not a party in its decisions.

Kidnapped Belgian—Palestinian sources cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain confirmed that Belgian doctor Jan Cools has been kidnapped, disclosing that he was abducted by unidentified persons south of Tyre.

Israel

A Jew is in "grave" condition after being stabbed in the old city of Jerusalem 26 May, IDF radio announced. An Arab youth was wounded when IDF soldiers opened fire

at demonstrators near Tulkarm the previous day, Jerusalem radio reported. Inhabitants of the territories marked the 40th day after the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir with commercial strikes, the radio noted.

Responding to an appeal by several prominent Americans to waive the deportation of Mubarak 'Awwad, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir maintained that 'Awwad is "not a man of peace," the radio reported. Shamir said 'Awwad may preach nonviolence to certain audiences, but he has expressed support for the PLO and its violent methods in speeches and articles. In another development, IDF radio reported that four editors of the banned paper DEREKH HANITZOTZ will be prosecuted. A fifth defendant will be released and will be among the prosecution witnesses, who include 17 Shin Bet members.

Libya-Chad

Libya "declares its recognition of Chad and ends all the outstanding problems" between the two countries, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television marking the 25th OAU anniversary. Col al-Qadhdhafi expressed Libya's readiness to resolve all issues with Chad in a "fraternal and friendly way." He invited Chadian President Hissein Habre and GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei to meet in Libya for talks on national reconciliation. Should such talks fail, Libya will not intervene in any subsequent civil war, Al-Qadhdhafi pledged. He offered Chad a "Libyan Marshall Plan" to reconstruct cities damaged by Libya "punishment raids," and he put all Chadian POW'S at the "disposal" of the OAU. Al-Qadhdhafi also announced the restoration of relations with Kenya, Liberia, Zaire, Mauritius, Gabon, Senegal, Gambia, and the Ivory Coast.

In reference to his nonattendence at the OAU summit, Al-Qadhdhafi indicated that he did not travel to Addis Ababa because he does not consider himself a "head of state." He noted that the Libyan leadership's announcements on Chad were made as a "present to Africa" which will relieve the burden of the African leaders meeting in Ethiopia and allow them to concentrate on "historic objectives" such as unity and liberation.

Chadian President Hissein Habre told AFP 26 May that the Libyan initiative may represent "positive action" toward a "new era of good neighborliness." However, he noted that the Libyan leader has made "contradictory statements" in the past.

Chad

'Cautious Satisfaction' With Al-Qadhdhafi Offer

AB2605082388 Paris AFP in French 0757 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 May (AFP)—Chadian President Hissein Habre today expressed cautious satisfaction with the statement made by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli yesterday evening calling for reconciliation between Chad and Libya. He nevertheless rejected categorically any "interference in the internal affairs" of Chad. "I do not have the exact details of Col al-Qadhdhafi's statements. It nevertheless seems that he expressed readiness to restore diplomatic ties with Chad, thus turning the page," President Habre told AFP and Radio France International special correspondents this morning.

"If this statement is true, we believe that would constitute positive action." "Chad, he added, has always sought peace between the two countries in order to usher in a new era of good neighborliness and, why not, cooperation." You will nevertheless agree, the Chadian president said, that we are used to such contradictory statements by Al-Qadhdhafi, especially as he was unable, once more, to avoid interfering in our internal affairs on this issue [words indistinct].

Col al-Qadhdhafi announced that he recognized the regime of Ndjamena and that he would not take part in any possible resumption of fighting. He also proposed that President Habre and his major Chadian opponent, Goukouni Oueddei, meet in Tripoli, if they so desire, to "seal the bond of national reconciliation" among Chadians.

Habre, Egypt's Mubarak Discuss Cooperation

NC2405193788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 May (MENA)—After the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Chadian President Hissein Habre today, Habre said that they reviewed the international situation in general and questions of cooperation between Chad and Egypt. He stated: You know how deep relations between Egypt and Chad are. It was an opportunity for my brother President Mubarak and me to define certain points, and our meeting was very positive as far as these points are concerned.

On the question of an exchange of prisoners between Chad and Libya, President Habre said: Chad has no problems with the Libyan people. We believe that our brothers in Libya have been forced to fight us. He added: We have expressed our good intentions by giving these prisoners the best treatment. Some of them were released. We only did this because we are shouldering our responsibilities and because we believe that we are making a fraternal gesture. We hope for a day when all prisoners will be released and will be able to return to their own countries.

Regarding the current situation in Libya, President Habre said that the committee on the existing conflict between Chad and Libya will be meeting during the 24th African summit. He expressed the hope that the two sides will agree to put a final end to this conflict. On the main points in the working paper that Chad has submitted to this committee, he stated: The committee will be meeting later today and if we are asked to contribute we are ready to do so.

Egypt

Charges Detailed in 'Spying for Libya' Case

NC2505200788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Court, Counsellor Antoine Basila presiding, resumed today the trial of the defendants accused of spying for Libya. The seven defendants include four fugitives, of which three are Libyan intelligence men. During a 3-hour session, the court heard the plea of the state security prosecution in the case.

Mustafa Sulayman, the deputy state security prosecutor, said that this case is a link in the series of continuing abortive attempts by the Libyan regime to spread its misleading and poisonous ideas in the country with a view to destabilizing Egypt. He added that the Libyan regime has made extremism a course of life and is using it as a method for dialogue and a means to appear in the international arena.

The prosecution said that some of these defendants had maintained contacts with representatives of a foreign country with a view to harming Egypt's political position and national interests.

The prosecution explained that two of the defendants in the case—Salah Mahmud 'Id and Husayn 'Uthman Taha—traveled to Libya in 1977, while Egypt's relations with it were broken, and contacted the fifth defendant, Al-Hadi Muhammad Fadl; the sixth defendant, Yusuf Abu Jalalah; the seventh defendant, Muhammad Sa'id; and others working in and for Libyan intelligence. They agreed with them to participate in the political plans of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which aim at creating and supporting activity that is hostile to the Egyptian regime and gaining political influence in it.

The prosecution said that the first defendant agreed to provide them with information and reports regarding the political and internal situation in Egypt, to issue antiregime statements, and to prompt groups of Egyptians to receive military training and instruction in what is called "the Third Theory" so that they could work to apply it inside Egypt. [passage omitted]

The prosecution added that the first defendant, Salah Mahmud 'Abd al-Shafi, had traveled to Libya at the end of 1981, after learning about the issuance of orders to

detain some politicians. He had believed that these orders would apply to him. In Libya he met with Sa'd al-Din al-Shadhili in his capacity as the secretary general of the National Front and the person responsible for all anti-Egyptian regime groups abroad.

The prosecution added that this defendant informed Libyan intelligence that he was one of the heads of a secret opposition organization which aims to topple the existing regime in Egypt. He agreed with them to spread the Green Book and the Third Theory inside Egypt.

The prosecution said that these defendants received money and gifts as bribes in order to commit acts harmful to the country's interests. They also sought to create activity hostile to the regime and to gain political influence in Egypt. The defendants also took part in a criminal agreement with a view to committing the crimes of espionage and bribery.

Mubarak Meets With African Leaders in Ethiopia

NC2405204888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 May (MENA)—Upon his arrival here, President Husni Mubarak held a series of meetings with a number of African leaders who are taking part in the African summit scheduled to open tomorrow at the OAU headquarters in the Ethiopian capital.

President Mubarak received Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam at his place of residence in Addis Ababa. In a statement after the meeting, President Mubarak said the discussion dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote them, the role of the joint committees in this respect, Ethiopian-Somali relations, and Ethiopian-Sudanese relations. Mubarak added: We believe we have made progress in this connection and that new horizons are opening up in Ethiopia's relations with Sudan. We hope the problems between Sudan and Ethiopia will be resolved, he added.

President Mubarak also met with Chadian President Hissein Habre. After the meeting, Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, said that Egypt strongly backs all efforts by the OAU and the members of the African ad hoc committee to settle the Chadian-Libyan dispute and withdraw Libyan troops from Chadian territory so that Chad's sovereignty and territorial integrity may be preserved.

For his part, President Habre praised Egyptian-Chadian relations, noting that he and President Mubarak reviewed progress in bilateral relations as well as African issues. He hoped the African ad hoc committee on the Chadian-Libyan dispute would be able to settle this conflict.

President Mubarak met later with Guinean President Lansana Conte. In a statement folowing the meeting, Mubarak said the issue of indebtedness is a matter that concerns all the African countries and that Egypt is exerting efforts in this respect in all international forums. The president went on to say: We talked about the need to solve the debts issue, which is one of the difficult problems facing the African countries. He noted that this problem needs more cooperation and efforts among the African states and added: We have to organize ourselves in order to be able to find just solutions for this major problem.

President Mubarak continued: It is shameful for us, as African countries, that trade between us constitutes only 4 percent of our total foreign trade and that most of our trade dealings are with countries outside the African Continent. He added: We could reduce the severity of the economic crisis in Africa through trade cooperation. He pointed out that some African countries could perhaps produce items that are lacking in others, or that some countries might have expertise in one sphere that is needed by others. He noted that such cooperation would decrease reliance on hard currency.

In this respect he referred to transportation within the African Continent as the main obstacle hindering inter-African cooperation, noting that Europe is the only route available to us. The president asked: How can this be the case in the 20th century? We must cooperate in order to serve the interests of the African countries, he added.

On Guinean-Egyptian relations, President Mubarak said: They are very good and we are always striving to develop them further.

Answering a question on relations between Egypt and the Arab states, President Mubarak said they are excellent. On the possibility of Egypt's reconciliation with Libya and Syria, President Mubarak said:

This is a difficult question. I tried to bring about a reconciliation with Syria during the ICO summit in Kuwait. I talked with President Hafiz al-Asad outside the hall. Two minutes later, after we entered the hall, President al-Asad delivered a speech in which he attacked Egypt and a former Egyptian president. Mubarak said: No head of state accepts slander against his predecessor. This is a matter of the country's honor. Al-Asad is free not to want reconciliation. I will not be reconciled with anyone by force.

He continued: As for Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, he has agreed with me on more than 20 occasions. Each time he would submit requests, all of which I would accept, but on the same night he would curse us vehemently. We live in the 20th century and in a civilized world in which undignified words should not be used. They call us names such as traitors and agents. I say to him: May God forgive you.

Asked whether Egypt will attend the upcoming Arab summit conference in Algiers, President Mubarak stated: Egypt is not yet a member of the Arab League. Nevertheless, thanks to its good relations with both East and West, Egypt is making every effort in support of Arab causes. Thank God, my relations are good with all countries of the world, except those which I have mentioned.

President Mubarak also met with Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, Madagascar President Didier Ratsiraka, and Malian President Moussa Traore.

Plan To Assassinate Nasirist Group Leader Probed

NC2505092588 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
23 May 88 p 10

[Text] Egyptian state security organs are investigating an attempt by an unidentified group to assassinate Mahmud Nur al-Din, the military leader of the Nasirist Egypt's Revolution organization, in Turah prison, to determine how it entered and left the country.

Nur al-Din has been on a hunger strike for 15 days in support of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

Editorial Views Improved Relations With Soviets

JN2405195188 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
23 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Egyptian-Soviet Meeting"]

[Text] The signing of the Egyptian-Soviet cooperation agreement came as a new start in Cairo-Moscow relations to affirm the eagerness of the two sides to establish permanent, normal, and balanced relations in the era of international detente.

The agreement was the height of a process of bringing about a desirable improvement in bilateral relations, which have for a long time been deadlocked and lukewarm because of the absence of goodwill. It is good that this improvement was gradual and cautious and that it is being given this momentum now that reassurance has been obtained regarding the bases of this improvement.

This follows the emergence of a suitable atmosphere in each state in two eras in which positive intentions were displayed in various directions in an equitable manner. This improvement in relations followed an era when bilateral relations were deadlocked because of the failure and fluctuation of policies and also because of the absence of confidence in an international atmosphere that was characterized by skepticism and distrust.

Despite the negative aspects that dominated bilateral relations for a long time, Egypt cannot forget the Soviet Union's great contributions to three of the biggest projects of the age, namely, the High Dam project, the aluminum complex project, and the iron and steel factories project. We hope that the new relations, which took the form of launching economic projects as mentioned in the cooperation agreement, will follow in the steps of the early era of strong cooperation, putting behind us the obstacles encountered in the recent past. We also hope that the lessons of the past will be learned and that there will be no slippage to bad interferences or setbacks, so that we can benefit from and build upon the bright aspects of past ties.

Indication of moves by the two countries in this direction are being demonstrated. The positions of the two countries regarding internal and foreign policies converge. Both states seek to build strong economic bases for themselves after achieving multifaceted peaceful situations, considering that war, especially in the nuclear age, can destroy the human race. Hence, any political action must seek to achieve the opposite, that is, peace. Another reason for forging ties of fraternity between the two states is their pursuit of a policy based on frankness and internal openness, as well as their endeavors to bring about democratic reform to make it serve as a basis for progress and development.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Recognizes Chad, Offers Aid

LD2505220588 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2021 GMT 25 May 88

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the diplomatic mission in Tripoli on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the OAU—recorded]

[Text] Members of the diplomatic corp; brother ambassadors of the African states; brother representatives of the liberation organizations, especially SWAPO and the PLO:

I join you this evening, not as head of state—had I been that I would have attended the summit of OAU heads of state in Addis Ababa today—but in my capacity as a revolutionary and on the basis that Libya is an international base for the leadership of world revolution and the African revolution. Let us pay tribute to the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the OAU and to Africa Day, which historically falls on this day!

Libya is an active state in the African family. It constitutes the northern gate of Africa and the bridge between Africa, the Mediterranean, and Europe. Libya is also the Mecca of African revolutionaries and the revolutionaries of the world. It had consolidated its leadership of the international revolution with the blood of its sons, with its martyrs, by confronting the biggest force of imperialism: NATO, foremost of which is the aggressive United States. [Al-Qadhdhafi at this point addresses the interpreter and says "Translate properly. Do not invent out of your head. Put a paper in front of you and write on it what I say."]

The Jamahiriyah has deservedly added the prefix great because it has confronted the aggression of a great power which has nuclear weapons. There is no country on the face of the earth more powerful than the United States, economically or militarily. All the capabilities of NATO and the United States, their strategic capabilities which could be used in a third world war, were utilized in the attack on Libya in 1986.

All the equipment used to attack Libya was prepared to attack the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union. This campaign could have been directed against the socialist camp or the Soviet Union itself. Since the surprise was strategic to the extent that the USSR and the Warsaw Pact were not alert to this huge campaign, until the raid on Libya took place, it could have been directed against the Soviet Union. Libya confronted this strategic campaign midway through and aborted it. Had Libya been defeated, NATO would have been able to annex North Africa and the southern Mediterranean to its influence and it would have made a serious strategic step toward the socialist camp and encirclement of the Soviet Union.

Libya thus acquired the adjective great because it confronted the aggression of superpowers and at the same time protected superpower states: the USSR and the socialist bloc.

I am still talking about the evaluation of the role of Libya in Africa and the world. The hope of the African peoples and the peoples of the world, and the hope of the revolutionaries in Africa and the world, is pinned on Libya.

Because of this, and in order to salute and express appreciation for this day, the day of Africa, the leadership of the revolution wants to declare the following as a present to Africa on its 25th anniversary and to Africa Day, from the premise of Libya's great role toward peoples everywhere, and in particular, the African peoples.

The leadership declares its recognition of Chad and ends all outstanding problems between Libya and Chad in order not to occupy the leaders of Africa on this day with a painful problem between two fraternal and neighboring countries, so that they may devote themselves and concentrate their efforts on solving Africa's economic problems, confronting racism in South Africa, liberating South Africa and Namibia, strengthening the confrontation states, and backing the Palestinian people. Libya, or the leadership of the revolution to be precise, does this today. It shoulders its responsibility irrespective of all the circumstances and various facts.

The leadership of the revolution, above all considerations, undertakes this action: recognition of the Chadian regime and a declaration that it will solve its problems in a fraternal and friendly way with Chad. It will reduce this burden from the shoulders of the leaders of Africa who are gathered today in Addis Ababa and present them with this present on the OAU's 25th anniversary, so that this day will not be a day of problems between brothers and neighbors, a day of rancor, a discussion of painful problems, and the touching of painful wounds between brothers. We want this day to be a day of joy for Africa and a reduction in the burdens of the organization so that it may devote itself to the historic objectives for which it was established: the unity of Africa and the liberation of Africa. [applause]

In recognition and appreciation of the favors done by the fraternal people of Chad for the brother Arab Libyan people during the invasion of Libya by colonialist Italy, and the Chadian people's embrace of thousands of Libyans and thousands of Libyan families that lived there in security until Libya was liberated by the revolution and these families returned home—in fact, a number of Libyans settled there, regarding Chad as their homeland, making no difference between Libya and Chad—and in view of the losses Chad incurred as a result of the civil war, and as a result of the raids made by the Libyan Air Force—the punishment raids the Libyan Air Force carried out against Chad after the aggression against Aozou and Sara in which cities were destroyed like Faya, Fada, Gourou, Janga, (Jingwe), (Zemri), Bardai, and Zouar—Libya, on this occasion, offers a Libyan Marshall Plan to reconstruct northern Chad, and reconstruct these cities in particular, which were destroyed by the punishment raids of the Libyan Air Force after the aggression against Aozou and Sara. [applause].

We invite Goukouni and Habre to meet in Libya if they wish, and Libya will do its utmost for the sake of national reconciliation between them. However, we would like at the same time to warn that if they do not reconcile they will return to civil war. We hope this will not be repeated and will not return once again to Chad, but, God forbid, if reconciliation between them fails and they return once again to killing, Libya announces that it will not intervene in the Chadian civil war.

Libya announces the freeing of Chadian prisoners and, beginning today, on the occasion of Africa Day and the great anniversary of Africa, as 25 years have passed since the foundation of the OAU, Libya will, beginning today, put these prisoners at the disposal of the OAU.

On the occasion of this great day for Africa, Libya declares the resumption of its relations with the fraternal African countries Kenya, Liberia, Zaire, Mauritius, Gabon, Senegal, Gambia, and Ivory Coast.

African brothers, many happy returns of the anniversaries.

Sudan

500 'Rebels' Killed in Upper Nile Region

EA2505214288 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Five hundred rebels were killed and others were imprisoned in operations carried out by the Armed Forces in the Upper Nile Region. Major General 'Abd

al-Jalil al-Musharraf said that the operations were part of the general plan to destroy the rebellious movement and secure the southern Kordofan area to enable the people to work productively. Work has started on a peace camp for the returning rebels in the Abu Jubayhah area.

SPLA Claims Killing 102 Soldiers in Ambush

EA2505221488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Details of the ambush laid by combined SPLA forces, of (Zalan) and (Lazim) Battalions and of Mvolo task forces, on the enemy convoy at Cheibet village, Bahr al-Ghazal Road on 9th May 1988 have emerged.

Correspondent for the Radio SPLA in the area says that 102 enemy soldiers were known to have been killed and 69 others sustained serious injuries. Sixteen enemy vehicles were destroyed in that ambush.

Al-Mahdi Comments on Power, Bread Crises

LD2405201988 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said today that he is not convinced that there is an electricity supply crisis, and pointed out that electricity cuts do not conform with production. He said he will demand an explanation on the subject from the minister of energy.

The prime minister attributed the bread crisis in the capital to the problem of storage. His excellency confirmed that sufficient quantities of flour would be provided, and added that the government has taken measures to confront the situation. His excellency said that certain people are attempting to exacerbate the situation and magnify the present problems. He said that the Council of Ministers has taken measures to tackle the situation and prevent harmful behavior.

The prime minister also said that some foreign news media had succeeded in magnifying the recent incidents at the Acropol Hotel and the British Club. He said they produced misinformation about events in Sudan.

The prime minister stressed that the government of national concord is able to deal with all issues on the popular and official levels. He pointed out that the concord government has its own strategy to limit the rebel movement.

Al-Mahdi Departs for OAU Summit Conference

JN2505112488 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1034 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 25 May (SUNA) — Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his delegation left the country for Addis Ababa this morning on a 4-day visit to attend the African summit conference scheduled to begin in Addis Ababa this evening to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the OAU.

It has been decided that the prime minister will meet with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on the sidelines of the conference.

In addition to the prime minister, the delegation includes Matthew Abor, minister of labor and social securities [title as received]. Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, who is currently in Addis Ababa, will also join the delegation. [passage omitted]

OAU Summit Begins

For Africa-source reportage of the OAU meetings in Addis Ababa, including the Council of Ministers session, the OAU summit, and 25th anniversary celebrations, see the Inter-African Affairs section of the 20 May Africa (Sub-Sahara) DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Interviewed on Gulf Issues

LD2505150088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1347 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 25 (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah was quoted as expressing hope in an interview that the ongoing Iran-Iraq war would come to an end soon so as to stop the bloodshed and the loss of innocent lives.

Shaykh Nawwaf told "AL-MAJALIS" weekly magazine to be published in its upcoming issue that the attacks on the Kuwaiti Bubyian Island and the oil installations and commercial ships were aimed at drawing Kuwait to the conflict and making Kuwait a party to the war.

He stressed that "thanks to God and the wise political leadership these attempts will not force us to change our principles and we will not be a party to this war which we hope would stop soon."

Answering a question on protection to the Kuwaiti-flag ships, the defense minister said the responsibility for protecting such ships is shouldered by Kuwait as the U.S. is responsible for U.S.-flag ships "and we did not ask the U.S. to provide protection for our ships and tankers."

Answering a question on Kuwait's policy of diversifying the sources of arms, Shaykh Nawwaf said Kuwait has been one of the pioneering Arab states in following that policy which has proven to be effective.

He disclosed that after the U.S. rejected to supply Kuwait with the shoulder-held anti-aircraft Stinger issiles, Kuwait succeeded in "making up by acquiring another highly combat capability weapon."

Replying to a question about the proposed Gulf arms manufacturing authority for the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], Shaykh Nawwaf said this issue had been discussed by the concerned military committees which decided to delay it for further study.

On the recent Israeli threats against Saudi Arabia after the latter acquired the Chinese-made surface to surface missiles, the Kuwaiti minister said the Saudi Kingdom has the right to purchase the arms it wants for the defense of its land, sovereignty and independence.

In case of any aggression the Saudi Kingdom has the right to answer back in the way it deems appropriate, Shaykh Nawwaf said and stressed that the member states of the GCC will place all their military and human capabilities at the disposal of Saudi Arabia.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Leaves for Meeting in Havana

EA2505230088 Aden ANA in Arabic 1513 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpt] Comrade Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, left Aden this morning for the Republic of Cuba to attend the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau, which will be held in Havana from [words indistinct].

In a statement to ANA, the comrade foreign minister said the meeting is being held within the framework of the resolution taken by the nonaligned countries' foreign ministers. Discussions at the meeting will concentrate on the disarmament issue. [passage omitted]

Qatar

U.S. Envoy Vernon Walters Arrives 26 May

JN2605093588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Doha, 26 May (WAKH) — Vernon Walters, the U.S. President's envoy and the U.S. representative at the United Nations, arrived in Doha this morning on a 2-day visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of a number of Arab states.

During this visit, the U.S. official will meet with a number of senior Qatari officials to discuss developments in the Arabian Gulf region in light of the continued Iraq-Iran war as well as ways to implement the UN Security Council resolution to stop this war.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister on Iranian Pilgrimage 'Crime'

LD2505173288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Riyadh, 25 May (SPA)—Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has denied that there was any laxity in Saudi security that may have led to the Iranian rulers perpetrating their crime during the previous pilgrimage season. He cited as evidence the fact that when the Iranians tried to undermine security in God's peaceful house, Saudi security forces confronted and stopped them.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published today, Prince Nayif stressed that security prevails in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said: These are not just words but the reality of the situation and the reality of all pilgrimage seasons, including the previous one.

His royal highness said that among the most important lessons learned from the Iranian crime of last year is a distrust of the promises made by the rulers of Tehran regarding their respect for Islamic sanctities.

He said he will not allow them under any circumstances to repeat their vile act and that a host of security measures have been adopted to prevent any kind of behavior that may lead to disturbing security.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz called for the unity of the Arab nation in confronting the threats of the Iranian and Israeli regimes. He said that Tehran's and Tel Aviv's intentions against the Arab and Islamic world and their joint cooperation imply that there are many dangers aimed at the Arab nation as a whole. This requires a readiness to repel their aggression and to aid the Palestinian people in their demand for national rights.

His Royal Higness Prince Nayif described his 4-day visit to Egypt as having led to positive results and highlighted an identity of views between the two countries regarding the security situation in the region. He expressed hope that the size of cooperation would double to benefit both countries.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Envoy Cluverius

LD2205214188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Jeddah, 22 May (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, received this afternoon at his office at the ministry's branch in Jeddah the envoy of the U.S. secretary of state to the Middle East, Ambassador Wat Cluverius. The current situation in the region was reviewed during the meeting. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, foreign affairs undersecretary for political affairs.

Tunisian President Leaves Jeddah for OAU Summit

LD2405223788 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1252 GMT 24 May 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 24 May (SPA) — Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived in Jeddah at 1400 for a brief visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Immediately after the arrival ceremony, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, held a meeting, which was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of holy Mecca Province; His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal; and his excellency the minister of information, 'Ali al-Sha'ir; and on the Tunisian side by the minister of foreign affairs, Mohamed Mestiri; his excellency the minister of information, Dr Abdelwahab Abdallah; and the Tunisian ambassador to the Kingdom.

At 1500 his excellency the Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, left Jeddah for Addis Ababa to attend the 24th OAU summit. The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, saw him off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

'Abdallah Receives U.S. Envoy Vernon Walters

JN2505175588 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 25 (GNA) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and United States affirmed the necessity of implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war and ending the conflict through peaceful means. The remarks were made during a meeting here today between Rashid 'Abdallah minister of state for foreign affairs and Vernon Walters, U.S. envoy at the United Nations who arrived earlier today.

Walters told EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY that he reviewed with 'Abdallah U.N. related issues, specially ways of implementing the resolution approved by the U.N. Security Council on July 20, 1987. He also said that discussions covered the Palestinian issue and aspects of cooperation between the UAE and U.S. in various fields.

Stressing that his country's policy was based on achieving peaceful settlements both in the Gulf and Middle East regions, Walters said that his tour of the region comes ahead of the Moscow summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on May 29 and prior to next month's Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Meanwhile a responsible source at the UAE Foreign Ministry said that 'Abdallah affirmed to the U.S. envoy the UAE desire to end the war as soon as possible through implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution No 598.

The audience was attended by Ya'qub al-Kindi, director of foreign affairs at the Foreign Ministry and David Lyle Mack, American ambassador to the UAE.

Shaykh Zayid Receives Walters

JN2505194388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1855 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 25 May (WAKH) — UAE President Sahykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received Vernon Walters, the U.S. President's envoy and the U.S. representative at the United Nations, this evening.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the current situation in the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East and international issues of mutual interest. WAM reported that Walters briefed his highness the UAE president about the regional issues that will be discussed at the Moscow

summit, including U.S. efforts to settle the Palestinian cause and end the Iraq-Iran war. He also briefed Shaykh Zayid on the UN Security Council's efforts to bring about a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

His highness the UAE president called on the United States to adopt a firm stand in support of justice and to return rights to their owners in its efforts to attain a solution to the Palestinian cause. His highness said that the Arabs expect such a stand from the United States now and before it is too late as this will serve U.S. interests and stability in the region.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid told the U.S. envoy that if rights are not restored to those who have a legal claim to them, then the Arab countries will have no other option but to confront Israel.

Algerian Envoy Delivers Arab Summit Invitation
JN2405123788 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Mohamed Ben Ahmad Abdelghani, the Algerian president's envoy and minister of state for the presidency, left the country today for Muscat following a visit to the UAE within the framework of his current tour of a number of the region's states.

During his visit, the Algerian envoy delivered a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan inviting his highness to attend the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Algiers on 7 June. The Algerian envoy was seen off at the airport by Health Minister Hamad 'Abd al-Rahman al-Midfa', a number of officials, and Mohamed Dayes, Algerian ambassador to the UAE.

Ramadan Opens World People's Peace Conference
JN2505115588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—The World People's Peace Conference opened here today under the patronage of President Saddam Husayn. Social and political personalities, thinkers, and journalists from many world states are taking part in this conference. The conference is being held under the slogan "For World Mobilization To Implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987 To End the War Between Iraq and Iran and To Achieve a Just and Comprehensive Peace in the Gulf."

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, delivered a speech on behalf of President Saddam Husayn. He said: The good will is the one which brought this gathering here regardless of the participants' affiliations, occupations, and the social classes they represent. He added that participation in the conference reinforces the force of peace and supports right, and that victory is always for the good and peaceful will.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that Iraq will continue its efforts to achieve peace and secure all requirements to defend its territory, principles, and peace. He said that Iraq will achieve victory and defeat the enemies of peace and their aggressive policies. On behalf of President Saddam Husayn, Ramadan wished success for the conference and its noble objectives of achieving a lasting peace and of stopping destruction and losses the war inflicts on the two conflicting parties and on neighbouring parties which the war began to affect, in addition to the threats the war poses to the region's security and stability and to entire world peace.

Ramadan said: Iraq welcomed the convocation of the conference in Baghdad in response to the nongovermental organizations in Iraq. This proves our desire for peace. It also proves that the noble objectives of the conference are in agreement with the firm and principled stand toward settling the conflict with Iran through peaceful means based on the principles of international law, and toward establishing relations with it in a manner that would serve the two countries' interests and be in harmony with their sovereignty and dignity.

In his speech, the president's representative reviewed the Iranian aggression against Iraq. He said: Iran began the war against Iraq on 4 September 1980 despite all Iraq's initiatives to turn over a new leaf with Iran that took into consideration the ties of neighbourliness, religion, and history between the two countries. He pointed out that in return for this the Iranian regime carried out actions characterized by hostility, expansion, and provocation. It interfered in Iraq's domestic affairs, and continued its aggressions against border villages and police stations. Ramadan added: The Iranian regime's aggression reached its peak and took the form of actual armed aggression when it launched the war against Iraq on 4 September 1980.

Ramadan said: Iran seeks to occupy Iraq and to change the form of government in it in accordance with what Iran terms as the exporting of the revolution, which only means launching war against the victim of aggression and to impose on it the Iranian form of government. He pointed out that Iran also attacked other states in the Arabian Gulf such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia under the same policy of aggression and expansion.

Ramadan said that Iran's actions of blackmail and terrorism such as the hijacking of planes, the kidnapping of hostages, acts of sabotage, assassinations, and the creation of confusion are all manifestations of the aggressive Iranian course. He stressed that Iraq has responded to the UN and Security Council resolutions calling for ending the fighting, achieving peace, and resorting to negotiations to settle the conflict, beginning with Resolution No 479 which was issued on 28 September 1980 and ending with Resolution 598 of July 1987. Ramadan said: Iraq has also responded to the ICO resolutions and the Nonaligned Movement's appeals, and welcomed the mediation committees stemming from these organizations and cooperated with them.

Ramadan said: Iran resorts to maneuvers and tricks and makes justifications to evade the binding nature of the UN Security Council resolution. It seeks to circumvent this resolution despite the fact that the international community is unanimous in the need to end the war and achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace. He stressed that Iran's methods to evade international pressure to implement the resolution is part of its plan to separate international law, war, and solutions to be able to prolong the war and continue its aggressions to achieve its evil objectives.

Ramadan added: The international community is facing an impasse represented by the defiance of a UN member state to its will and by its refusal to respond to its binding resolution which was issued unanimously, in a manner that undermines the prestige and credibility of the United Nations and its effective role in safeguarding the most sacred human values that are related to the peoples' stability and coexistence and cooperation and amity among them.

Ramadan urged implementation of the second step of the binding UN Security Council resolution, namely sanctions against Iran who rejected the resolution, by imposing an arms embargo and other sanctions on it. He also called on the international community to reach the necessary formula and adopt the necessary means to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 and to force Iran to accept it and respond to peace, or otherwise to denounce it for its insistence on threatening world peace and security and to hold it responsible for the consequences of its stand by imposing sanctions on it to end the war, stop the bloodshed, and to exploit the wasted resources for progress and development in the interest of humanity.

Ramadan added: Iraq views this conference as a victory for justice, right, and peace. The action of the nongovernmental popular organizations and committees and their struggle for humanitarian principles and peace is just as important as the action of the decisions of the international governments.

Ramadan stressed that Iraq's peaceful efforts will not stop but will continue with good intentions regardless of the backward Iranian regime's insistence on rejecting peace efforts and resolutions. He affirmed that the expulsion of the invaders from Al-Faw was an actual credit for peace, and that Iraq, which strongly believes in peace, will not change its stands regardless of developments on the battlefront.

Ramadan added that the principles of peace, mutual respect of sovereignty, and good neighbourliness should prevail under all circumstances. He expressed hope that the illusions the Iranian regime has been living with will eventually be shattered.

Hasan 'Ali, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command member and chairman of the conference's higher preparatory committee, delivered a speech in which he welcomed participants in the conference. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,192

JN2505161588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 May 88

[Communique No 3,192 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 May]

[Text]In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, o sons of the glorious Arab nation, o valiant men of our brave Armed Forces: You and the world recall how the Iranian officials broadly launched anew their ill-omened slogan about the year 1987, which they called the year of decisiveness. You and the world also recall how they mobilized their resources all over Iran to dispatch to the III and VII Army Corps fronts at one time in the battles of the Great Day. These battles began on the night of 24-25 December 1986 and ended with a splendid victory for our forces in the two Army Corps fronts and the defeat of the invaders.

They could have reviewed their calculations, saved their people from the pains of death and destruction, and sought peace in accordance with God's orders and human laws. But instead of doing all this, they once again concentrated all their efforts and deceptions on the front of one Iraqi Army division, the heroic 11th Infantry Battalion in the III Army Corps, which was defending the Shalamcheh sector. In this offensive, as in all the battles waged to the east of Al-Basrah, their target was the city of all cities and the necklace of Arab dignity—beloved Basra.

Through Basra, they want to break Iraq's will of steadfastness and fighting to encroach on the resources, territory, and fields of the Arab nation. In so doing, they hope to fulfill their mean dream of building an empire of charlatanism and trickery on the ruins of the nation's honor and dignity and the hopes and aspirations of its sons. They want to deal a severe blow to human civilization, laws, and spirit.

O brothers, you also recall the fighting in the battlefields and how brave men fought in the fire of the battles in defense of great Iraq, the honor of its women, the glorious Arab women, and the honor of the Arab nation. Among those men are the ones who have completed their extreme vow to form an important part of the mast of the Iraqi flag and the mast of the Arab nation's glory. Also among these men are the ones who continued the march climbing the echelons of glory seeking God's, the people's, and the homeland's satisfaction, but they have never changed their determination in the least.

The enemy concentration was wiped out in the Great Harvest battles, which began on the night of 8-9 January 1987 and which ended in the birthday battles on 11 April 1987.

Thus, the glorious battles continued in the Great Day, Great Harvest, and the Birthday occasion for more than 3 months. In those battles, many fell colored with the blood of dignity, honor, and pride. Our forces killed and wounded over 400,000 from the aggressors, cursed by God and branded with His wrath.

Although the enemy was defeated in an unparalleled battle, it tried to cover up its defeat by occupying dear parts of land in this sector. The names Shalamcheh, the Du'ayji and Jasim Rivers, the Bubiyan and Kut al-Sawadi border posts, the Tawilah Island, and Shalhat al-Aghawat were retaken by the enemy. At the same time, the Iraqis remember these names along with their glorious battles, heroic deeds, and martyrs.

It is high time we completely wrenched this land and its beautiful names from the enemy to return it to the lap of the motherland crowned with pride and victory. This is after this land's brave sons rose to free it in the glorious Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah operations. They recaptured it embraced by the guns of the knights singing to it, O land your soil is delicious!

Thus the invaders were defeated and forced out of the international borders in the direction of their territory after many of them were burned with the Iraqi fire which God has sent to them. They were also defeated and forced out after many of them fell in capitivity in the battles of Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah, which continued from

0930 [0530 GMT] today to 1800 today. During these battles, our units completed the third and last stage of the offensive. In all that, God supported and aided us. God is great! Praise be to God for His clear victory.

O braver Iraqis. O sons of the glorious Arab nation. On this day of victories, we reiterate thanks for Allah, the god of the two worlds, for his clear victory, and extend congratulations and thanks to the men of the Presidential Guard—the men of hard missions—and the men of the heroic III Army Corps, to our great people, and to the sons of our valiant Armed Forces. It is our duty to reiterate conviction in our peaceful approach toward ending the war and ending its tragedies, which have afflicted the Iranian and Iraqi peoples and the peoples of the region and the world in one way or another. We announce that at the time of triumph we are more adherent to this approach and more prepared to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 with goodwill.

At the same time, we affirm to the Iranian rulers and those collaborating with them that any maneuver over the resolution and any attempt to adhere to the aggressive path and course of expansion will be useless to them. They will only reap further defeats, curses, and woes from their approach for their people who are plagued by them. Their only option to live in stability and dignity is the option of peace, respecting the rights of the region's peoples and rights of neighborhood with everyone, and accept that everyone lives peacefully on his land with complete sovereignty over it.

God is great. Down with the losers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 May 1988

Communique No 3,193

JN2505171688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1616 GMT 25 May 88

[Communique No 3,193 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 May]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

O proud Iraqis, we have liberated our land for whose occupation the enemy paid 400,000 casualties and mobilized in 1987 all its Armed Forces to attack one of our valiant divisions which held fast for 9 decisive days and left their positions only by order of withdrawal. The enemy continued to fight day and night to maintain the foothold for 3 months until it was defeated with humiliation on this great day. Within 10 hours today we completely destroyed five Iranian divisions.

This is an act of heroism in history and an act of heroism in war. Among the leaders of the entire world, only great Saddam Husayn would achieve something like that. We have the right to be proud of him and, moreover, to boast of him before the entire world. We have the right to say: By God, weakness, the enemies' filth, and attempts to halt progress or defeat freedom have never affected a country led by the likes of Saddam Husayn.

O proud Iraqis, as he is accustomed to great and victorious battles, your leader is the one who planned this battle, provided its requirements, followed up its details, and led his soldiers in it. When the dust of the battle unveiled a decisive victory, the leader returned proud of his people and Army, and the people and Army returned proud of their leader. [passage omitted]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 May 1988

INA on Shalamcheh, Past Battles

JN2505150988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1328 GMT 25 May 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 25 May (INA)—In a lightning attack this morning, the Iraqi forces liberated the Jasim and Du'ayji Rivers, the Tawilah Island, the southern tip of the Fish Lake, and the Bubiyan and Kut Al-Sawadi border posts. [passage omitted]

The lightning Iraqi attack is aimed at liberating the Iraqi Shalamcheh area which has been occupied by the Iranian forces since early 1987. The General Command promised to convey later the glad tidings of the final victory after carrying out the third stage of the Twakkalna 'Ala Allah [We relied upon God] operations. [passage omitted]

The Shalamcheh area, southeast to the city of Basra, is the international border area between Iraq and Iran.

In operations which lasted over 3 months since late 1986 until April 1987, Iran attempted to penetrate the area to reach Basra. However, it completely failed to achieve its objectives and sustained heavy losses. President Saddam Husayn said then that these losses broke the backbone of the Iranian serpent. It was considered one of the largest battles ever in the history of the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iraqi forces then forced the Iranians to stop at the Jasim River line and the southern end of the Fish Lake. The Iranian forces, which were prevented from advancing, only occupied the Bubiyan and Kut al-Sawadi border posts although more than 350,000 soldiers participated in the Iranian attack.

The defense minister announced the day before yesterday that the Iraqi forces will liberate the Iraqi territories occupied by Iran and will hoist the Iraqi flag over them after expelling the Iranian forces from them.

The Shalamcheh area was one of the areas about which the defense minister said that the Iraqis are determined to liberate.

Iranian artillery positions were deployed in the occupied Iraqi areas east of Basra and the Jasim River area from where residential areas in the city of Basra were shelled daily to kill children and women and to damage civilian property.

By pushing the Iranian forces out of the international border area, the city of Basra becomes safe from the evil of aggressive objectives of invasion from the southernmost of Iraq. The Iraqis liberated the city of Al-Faw and the head of the triangle in the Al-Bishah area which posed a threat to the steadfast city, and from the southeastern area as the glorious Iraqis liberrated the area today, Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Iraqi forces continue to purge the region of the remaining invading Iranian forces up to the Shalamcheh area.

More On Shalamcheh Battles

JN2505164388 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad after personally supervising the victorious battles of "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah" (We depended on God) operations which ended in the full liberation of the Shalamcheh area, in the southern sector of the front, from the Iranian invaders.

The president was accompanied during the field supervision by Gen. 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander-in-chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and minister of defence, and Brig. Husayn Kamil, the director of the military industries body and acting minister of industry and minerals.

Air Force Attacks Sidon Area 'Terrorist' Base

TA2605042088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Air Force planes last night attacked a terrorist base at 'Ayn al-Hulwah, south of Sidon. All planes returned safely to base. The pilots reported hits on targets. Antiaircraft fire was directed at the planes in the course of the attack, but, as stated, they returned safely.

Al-Luwayzah Attacked

TA2605102088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] IDF planes attacked a terrorist target in the southern Lebanese village of Al-Luwayzah this morning. All our planes returned safely to base. The pilots reported hits on target.

IDF Issues Communique

TA2505184588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The following is a communique issued this evening by the IDF spokesman on today's operation in southern Lebanon:

This morning, IDF and South Lebanese Army [SLA] units attacked terrorist centers in and around the village of Al-Luwayzah. The village served as a frontline Hizballah terrorist base and is located on the fringes of the central sector of the southern Lebanese security zone. Our forces sustained no casualties. Four SLA soldiers were slightly injured, and another sustained serious wounds.

During the operation, several structures that served the terrorists as organizational bases, headquarters, and starting points for attacks against the IDF and SLA in the security strip, were destroyed. Artillery positions and antiaircraft batteries located around the village were also demolished.

IDF infantry, artillery, and armored units operating from inside the security strip participated in the raid against the terrorists. The SLA combed the village to locate additional weapons. Air Force planes hit terrorist targets in the village and surrounding areas. The forces returned to their bases after completing the operation. SLA searches revealed several terrorist bodies.

Peled: 'Warning' to Hizballah

TA2505184988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, said the South Lebanese Army [SLA] operation north of the security zone against Hizballah was a warning. Any village that becomes a fortified garrison will be totally destroyed, General Peled said.

Some 20 Hizballah members were killed in the SLA operation, in which the IDF assisted. There were no IDF casualties.

Peled Comments on Operation

TA2605052288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The head of Army Northern Command, Major General Yosi Peled, says the Israeli attack on the south Lebanese town of Al-Luwayzah yesterday was another Israeli initiative against terrorists. Peled, speaking to the Rotary Club in Haifa, said Al-Luwayzah was empty of villagers and that the only occupants were Hizballah terrorists. The general said the army used a larger force than usual, and then joined with the South Lebanese Army in combing the village.

Peled said Israel is involved in a long struggle to secure Israel's northern border, and this requires imagination and daring. Israel must be the initiator and determine when and where to battle terrorists. The general added that military operations cannot change the anarchy in Lebanon, but they can achieve some calm along Israel's borders.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 26 May carries a similar report in which Peled noted that "the terrorist operations from southern Lebanon which are keeping the Northern Command preoccupied are troublesome and serious, but they do not pose a threat to the existence of the State of Israel. It is rather from the quiet border with Syria that such a threat is emanating. Maj Gen Peled says he does not see signs that Syria intends to launch a war in the near future, but it is preparing its army for the next war with Israel."]

Shomron on Operation's Aim

TA2505174088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 25 May 88

["Excerpts" of news conference by Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of staff, to members of the Foreign Press Association in Jerusalem on 25 May—recorded]

[Text] As you know, the security strip is a fundamental component of our policy to defend the northern settlements from terrorist organizations operating from Lebanon. Recently, despite its fighting with Amal, Hizballah has established several centers on the fringes of the security strip. These centers have been used to launch attacks deep inside the security zone as well as on Israeli soil. The village attacked today, Al-Luwayzah, located on the northern boundary of the security strip, houses Hizballah members who evicted all the civilians, just as they did in Maydun. The South Lebanese Army is combing the village and surrounding areas, while the IDF covers them with firepower.

In principle, we have no desire to fight any organization in Lebanon. We will, however, fight any group that is in a position to attack us or has resolved to do so. In those

cases, we have no choice but to preempt such operations. We do not want to attack Hizballah or even Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon. We only operate against those who are either engaged in an assault on us or are about to launch one. Whenever we strike at Hizballah, we risk escalation. We have no alternative, however, and must attack those who directly endanger us.

I believe that once the people in the territories realize that although their cause has made headlines, political gains will not be made with the use of force, they will understand that changes can only be effected through direct negotiations with the State of Israel. They cannot avoid us and exclude us from deliberations. They cannot continue to raise the issue in world forums hoping to force us into setting up a Palestinian state or accepting any other goal of the uprising [previous word in Arabic] in spite of ourselves.

Shamir on Lebanon, Elections, U.S.-Soviet Summit
TA2605055988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 26 May 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Arye Golan in the studio and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the prime minister's residence—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning to you, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the prime minister's residence. Mr Shamir, will the actions initiated against Hizballah in Lebanon, beyond the security zone, continue?

[Shamir] I cannot say what the IDF will do in the future, not even in the near future. In any event, one should not view these initiated actions as a fundamental change or turning point in the IDF's activity, which in that region is aimed at preventing the establishment and entrenchment of bases for terrorist aggression against the security zone.

[Golan] Mr Prime Minister, in the domestic political arena there is currently talk of advancing the Knesset elections. You favor holding them at the beginning of September, before the Jewish High Holidays. Foreign Minister Peres favors holding them after the holidays, at the beginning of October. Do you, as prime minister, now intend to initiate an appeal to Mr Peres so that you can jointly decide on an election date?

[Shamir] I no longer think that there is any point to or serious chance of early elections. After all, we are talking of only a short period—1 or 2 months at most—and I therefore believe that elections will indeed take place on the date specified by law.

[Golan] You thus do not intend to initiate anything. If Mr Peres appeals to you, however, will your answer also be 1 November?

[Shamir] Well, if Mr Peres appeals to me or if another initiative arises, we will look into things.

[Ben-'Ami] On the political plane, Mr Prime Minister: A few days ago you said you do not see a change in the Soviet Union's policy, neither toward the State of Israel nor toward the Jews. Two days ago we heard of Soviet willingness to receive the Israeli consular delegation. Is this a change?

[Shamir] Look, we have known about our consular delegation for a long time. This delegation has had its suitcases packed for months. Therefore, one should not view a report on the granting of visas which have not yet arrived as a change, certainly not a basic or substantive change in Soviet policy toward Israel and the Jewish problem. I must say I would have welcomed any substantive change in the Soviet attitude toward our issues.

[Golan] Since we are already on the subject of the Eastern bloc, are you, Mr Prime Minister, also planning a secret visit to an Eastern European country in the near future, following Mr Peres' visit to Hungary?

[Shamir] I have no plans, but neither am I excluding this possibility.

[Ben-'Ami] Can we consider a visit by the prime minister, perhaps not secret this time, to Budapest?

[Shamir] I cannot delve into speculations here. At the moment, I have no plans to travel in the very near future.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, President Reagan left Washington yesterday for Helsinki, en route to the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow. As far as the Middle East issue is concerned, what are your expectations of this summit and on the eve of Secretary Shultz' arrival in the region?

[Shamir] Well, this summit is of worldwide importance. I think that most people around the world expect this summit to herald greater chances for world or international peace. Naturally, as human beings as well as Middle East residents, we, along with the rest of the people on this earth, hope for good tidings on this. As for the Middle East, it is difficult at the moment to tell how much time the summit will dedicate to deliberations on this region. Still, if the issue does arise, I would like both parties to encourage each other to strengthen the leanings toward moderation in the region.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz will arrive here immediately after the Moscow summit. Now that you have curbed his initiative, are you preparing new ideas for promoting a peace initiative?

[Shamir] I have not curbed anything. I expressed my opinion. I expressed Israel's positions which, to the best of my knowledge and judgment, are in line with our national interest.

[Golan] Are you now preparing new ideas for Shultz' arrival?

[Shamir] There are ideas. They need not always be new, although they may contain several new aspects. I would be happy to hear from our friend, the U.S. secretary of state, of any encouraging news about favorable changes in the Soviet stance, and/or of greater readiness by our Arab neighbors to enter peace negotiations with us.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you may meet with Minister Shevardnadze in New York in 10 days. I assume that you will present Israel's position to him then. First, I would like to know to what extent such a meeting is possible. Second, in the wake of Foreign Minister Peres' recent meetings with the Soviets in which he, too, said he was presenting Israel's position, will there be several Israeli positions?

[Shamir] Well, as far as I am concerned, any meeting is possible, of course. I am prepared to meet with the representative of any country within the UN framework. I would be happy to meet with representatives when such meetings might help promote Israel's international status. As for Israel's position, I think I express Israel's legitimate positions which, in my opinion, are acceptable to the majority of the people. In any event, if my position is accepted by international elements as well, I have no doubt that all parts of the government will accept it.

IDF Denies Involvement in Shab'a Expulsions

TA2505110888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 May 88 pp 1, 20

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the IDF expelled 15 notables of the Sunni village of Shab'a, in the security zone, to Lebanon. Lebanese security and police sources reported this claiming that the notables were deported from the security zone because they refused to cooperate with the Israeli authorities.

Speaking to an ITIM correspondent, the IDF spokesman denied that the IDF expelled individuals from the security zone, but noted that the SLA might have done this although, in fact, this is not a deportation but rather a transfer from one place in Lebanon to another.

Lebanese security sources added that one person was wounded when an IDF soldier fired in the air in order to disperse a demonstration in the village during the deportation.

IDF 'Mistakenly' Fired at UNIFIL Vehicle

TA2505085188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 May 88 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Rosh Haniqra—The IDF yesterday acknowledged that its troops mistakenly fired at a UNIFIL armoured personnel carrier [APC] inside the security zone in south Lebanon after midnight on Sunday.

The army spokesman said that from an inquiry into the shooting incident, which occurred in the central sector of the zone, it emerged that IDF troops had spotted suspicious movement in a wadi and opened fire from afar.

The IDF troops immediately ceased shooting after the first burst of fire, when it became clear they were shooting at a UN vehicle.

The spokesman said that the inquiry's findings had been passed on to UNIFIL. The APC, manned by Norwegian troops, was hit by several rifle rounds, but there were no casualties. UNIFIL had protested to the IDF over the incident, which occurred close to a UNIFIL checkpoint near the village of Ibil al-Saqy, north of Marj 'Uyun.

Police Operation Ends in 'Largest Drug Bust'

TA2505142788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 May 88 p 1

[Report by Natan Zehavi]

[Text] In a secret operation sanctioned by the government, the Israeli police and security elements purchased a few tons of drugs, mainly hashish, in Lebanon and transferred them to Israel. The drugs were meant to serve as a bait for capturing Israeli "sharks." The immediate result of the operation is a drying up of the Israeli drug market.

Commanders of the Tel Aviv District Police Central Drug Squad, police intelligence officers, elite units, and the antiterror squad participated in the operation, as did other security elements and a group of Israelis posing as drug dealers. This is the largest drug bust ever staged by the police, requiring lengthy planning and being approved at all stages by the relevant ministries.

The drugs were purchased from one of the largest drug dealers in Lebanon and transferred to Israel by sea. Israeli and international dealers provided the funding for the operation, oblivious of the fact that they were dishing out money for an operation aimed at capturing them.

The operation, launched several months ago, is still under way. Most of the details of the operation, such as its results and the use made of these narcotics, are still being kept secret.

PRC To Participate in Energy Congress in June

TA2605071488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 May

[Text] A PRC delegation will arrive in Israel to participate in the International Congress on Energy which will take place in Tiberias next month. The Chinese have

already sent work papers in preparation for their participation. Scientists from 32 countries, including the Eastern Bloc and the Third World, will arrive for the congress and exhibition. Oil ministers from Egypt, Mexico, and Norway will not come, due to the incidents in the territories.

Shamir Answers Appeals: 'Awwad Not 'Man of Peace'

TA2605052888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says Mubarak 'Awwad, the Palestinian American psychologist appealing an order to expel him from Israel, is not a man of peace. Shamir was responding to the appeal of several prominent Americans to allow 'Awwad, the head of the Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence, to remain in the country.

Shamir said 'Awwad may preach nonviolence to certain audiences, but in his speeches and articles 'Awwad expresses support for the PLO and its violent methods and aims. The prime minister added that 'Awwad had urged Arabs during the Palestinian unrest to attack Israelis, as well as Palestinians serving in public services in the territories. One of the appeals for 'Awwad came from Coretta King, the widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King. The prime minister said the comparisons people are making between 'Awwad and the late King harm the memory of the civil rights leader.

Arab Charged With Firebombing U.S. Consul's Home

TA2505153088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Siyasi Tamas, a 21-year-old East Jerusalem Arab youth, was charged in the Lod military court today with hurling a Molotov cocktail 1 month ago at the home of the U.S. consul in Jerusalem.

Tamas, who was also charged with PFLP membership, was put on trial with Ahmad Fattahi, 25, who is charged with recruiting Tamas into the PFLP. Following their arrest, other PFLP members who incited disturbances in the Old City were caught.

Military Court Sentences 2 'Terrorists'

TA2505191688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Mahmud Abu Ziyad, a 47-year-old Lebanese citizen who was the captain of the "Maria R," was given a 7-year prison sentence today by the Lod military court. The vessel, which was used by the PLO, was intercepted more than a year ago while plying the waters between Cyprus and Lebanon. More than 50 PLO members were transferred to Israel and put on trial. Abu Ziyad was convicted of membership in a terrorist organization and providing services to the PLO.

The ITIM news agency reports that the Lod military court also gave a 6-year prison term to Isma'il Da'ud Husayn, a 24-year-old terrorist who worked for Amal in southern Lebanon and was captured while fighting the IDF last December. He was found guilty of planting explosives and mines in routes frequented by IDF patrols in the region. He was injured in combat with an IDF patrol and captured.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Update on 24 May Incidents

TA2505130688 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 25 May 88 p 4

[Report by Oren Kohen, Ya'ir Fidel and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Students demonstrated and threw stones in the Christian village of Bayt Sahur yesterday after school. The army dispersed them with rubber bullets and tear gas.

Yesterday in Ramallah, residents demonstrated in the center of town. In Teqoa' and Al-Zahiriyah villages, and in Janin and Nabulus, there were a few cases of stone throwing and tire burning. In Teqoa', security forces detained 15 residents following a demonstration. In the villages of Al-Khidr and Artas, tractors uprooted olive and almond plantations under military supervision. The blockade imposed on Kafr Malik 25 days ago was lifted, and the water and electricity supply was renewed.

IDF forces initiated activities in the villages of Dayr Abu Mash'al, Al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah, and 'Anabta. A curfew was imposed on Al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah, near Ramallah, from 0300 in the morning until noon. During the curfew, security forces concentrated the residents in the village center and detained 15 of them.

In 'Anabta near Tulkarm, 30 people were detained in a similar action, including Bassam Hanun who had been sought by security forces since the beginning of the uprising. Hanun had become a hero in 'Anabta because he had managed to escape detention for about 6 months. The residents said he had evaded detention once by shaving his beard and dressing as a woman. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 May in a report on pages one and ten adds: "Palestinian sources said soldiers shot a youth in the leg during clashes Monday night in Ya'bad, near Janin." In addition, yesterday "clashes broke out at Si'ir, near Hebron, when soldiers entered the village and ordered residents to remove flags and clear roadblocks."]

New Regulation Issued in Gaza

TA2605045788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The security forces have lifted the curfews and blockades from the refugee camps and villages in the Gaza Strip. As of this morning, there are no Gaza Strip residents under curfew. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 26 May carries an update on the Gaza Strip, adding that the Civilian Administration "is trying to press on to ensure a return to normalcy. The way is by issuing more regulations. The latest regulation requires all property owners to remove anti-Israeli slogans and Palestinian flags from their property. The slogans are a key method to convey messages by the organizers of the Palestinian uprising. Authorities say violators of the new regulation face a 5-year jail sentence or a 15,000 shekel fine, or both."].

Youth Shot Near Tulkarm

TA2505175188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] A local youth was injured at lunch time today at the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm. He was shot by Israeli soldiers while taking part in a demonstration to mark the 40th day after the killing of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. The demonstrators attacked an Israeli patrol with firebombs and stones. The soldiers opened fire to extricate themselves. The army is investigating the incident.

There were also disturbances at the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem as a result of which the camp was put under curfew. There were also some incidents in the Jerusalem area. At Jabal al-Mukabar, south of the city, and 'Isawiyah in the north, barricades blocked roads. A truck was set alight at Neve Ya'aqov, and police are investigating whether the background was nationalist or criminal. Within the Old City, the memorial set up for Yig'al Shahaf, who was murdered 6 months ago, was defaced with graffiti.

Jew Stabbed in Old City

TA2605102588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] A Jew was stabbed in the Cardo area of the Old City in Jerusalem today at around 1200. He was transferred to the Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital, and his condition is reported to be grave.

Casualty Toll Updated 23 May

TA2505110288 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 25 May 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zerubavel]

[Text] This past Monday, 23 May, the IDF spokesman reported 203 people dead from the beginning of the uprising in the occupied territories until Monday, according to the following breakdown:
— 154 dead as a result of IDF gunfire
— 30 dead as a result of unclear reasons
— 19 dead under circumstances that are still being investigated.

In contrast, Palestinian sources report 262 Palestinians dead, according to the following breakdown:
— 179 dead as a result of IDF gunfire
— 50 dead as a result of poisonous gas inhalation
— 16 dead as a result of blows and electrocution
— 17 dead as a result of unclear reasons.

U.S.-Likud 'Covert Alliance' on Peace Moves Seen

TA2505130888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 May 88 p 9

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "The Covert Partnership"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Last week it became evident again that there is absolutely no connection between any proposed changes in the international conference procedures and the Likud stand. The Soviet position has become more flexible, but this only served to stress Shamir's determination to say "no" to any possiblity.

During the Dubinin-Peres talks in Washington—and Likud speakers may ridicule them as much as they please—the Soviet Union made certain changes in its position that can be overlooked only by those who insist on saying "no" at any price, as Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, did this week on behalf of the prime minister.

For the first time, the Soviet Union agreed to the English language version of Resolution 242, which means that it has abandoned the notion of a full withdrawal to the 1967 borders. The Soviets also withdrew their demand for an "authoritative" conference, agreeing to convene it according to a flexible timetable. They have abandoned their demand for a Palestinian state and for a PLO delegation. In fact, the Soviets have drafted a document identical to the one agreed upon by the Likud in 1977, with the exception of the participation of the other Security Council permanent members.

At the same time, the Soviet officials said that recognition of Israel, one of our long held conditions for their participation in negotiations, will be granted when Israeli consent to an international conference is received. Disbelieving them is, however, easier than abandoning the main goal of doing everything possible to prevent

this conference. The conference will probably be foiled, but the recent moves are important in that they again stress the lack of connection between the Likud's opposition and actual developments.

The shift in the Soviet position would have been considered quite dramatic had it occurred in 1977 or even a year ago, but one of the negative contributions to our political processes, and one of Likud's successes, lies in the fact that these changes tend to be eroded with the passage of time. Thus, the Likud's prophesy that negotiations are a hopeless issue is becoming true. After the liquidation of Reagan's 1982 plan, after disrupting Peres' moves which resulted in the London document with Husayn, after the seemingly successful erosion of Shultz' initiative, it is easier to present the recent Soviet moves as insignificant.

(It would not be out of place today to go back to Al-Sadat's days and wonder whether the late president's initiative would have fallen flat if Shamir was prime minister, with the ability to enact his objection to that historic move.)

From this point of view, the Soviet stand is interesting not only as an indicator of the Likud's opposition to a political shift, but—not for the first time—also as instrumental in demonstrating the complex role played by the United States. One cannot help noticing that Washington's reservations from a too extensive Soviet involvement in the area has played a negative role in the region's developments several times.

The United States' dissatisfaction with what seemed to be progress in Peres' contacts with Soviet officials was again very evident. Each time the Soviet version undergoes a change, both the Likud's approach and the U.S. reasoning process become clearer. This time, too, Washington spokesmen began pouring cold water on the Peres-Dubinin meeting immediately after its conclusion.

It must be noted that this week Reagan himself used a news conference to reiterate the demand for the establishment of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union as a precondition for the latter's participation in the conference. In recent months not even Secretary of State Shultz has raised this demand. A similarly rigid note was voiced by other administration spokesmen, who made it clear that Israel should conduct its political business through Washington: They did not like the little love affair in Edgar Bronfman's Washington apartment.

This partial covert alliance between the Likud and the U.S. Administration, hidden under waves of U.S. rhetoric on the supreme importance of movement toward a settlement, indicates that the United States' permanent interest is to prevent its rival from gaining influence in the Middle East. This annoying common line, characteristic of the Likud's intransigence—which bore the brunt of the President's censure—and the U.S. intransigence over the issue of overenthusiastic Soviet participation in the region's processes, is becoming evident again.

This is perhaps the most depressing part of the complex diplomatic drama taking place before us, for we know very well what can be expected of the Likud in any matter even faintly resembling a territorial settlement. We do have different expectations from the United States, however, although it has again and again become evident that even these must be treated with skepticism as long as the United States is entrenched in its fear of Soviet participation in the management of Middle East affairs. Last week's events have upheld the feeling that we are headed nowhere. If someone was trying to look for evidence supporting this assumption, he could find it not only here, but also unfortunately in Washington.

Further Reportage on Israeli Operations

Helicopter Attacks Near Sidon

NC2505211888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] According to a dispatch from our correspondent in Sidon, Muhammad al-Asad, Israeli Cobra helicopters have carried out an air raid on targets on the hills of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Jabal al-Halib, and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, east of Sidon. They fired four sets of guided missiles. The raiding helicopters drew heavy antiaircraft fire.

At the same time, an Israeli warship, fired flares that lighted the targeted area. A number of people were wounded, among them As'ad Miqdih, Faruq al-Masri, and another person from the Miqdih family.

Meanwhile, a warship, escorted by two gunboats, was seen at a medium distance off the coast this evening.

Two Israeli helicopters also flew close to the liberated villages and along the border strip in the Bint Jubayl area. Flares were fired from the hills of Bayt Yahun and Bra'shit.

According to UN observers, the Israeli occupation forces and their agents this evening brought a number of armored vehicles into the central sector. Enemy vehicles reportedly advanced along the Al-Qantarah-Al-Ghanduriyah road this evening.

Casualties Updated

NC2605060988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Israeli occupation troops and agent Lahd militiamen carried out a wide-scale ground and air aggression against resistance men in Jabal Safi, Al-Luwayzah, and Mlikh in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday. [passage omitted]

The Amal Movement has announced that 3 of its members were killed and 10 others wounded, including Abu Jamal, official in charge of military affairs in the South. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Front in Sidon stated that 12 fighters were martyred and 16 others are missing. REUTER cited a source in the Islamic resistance as saying that 20 fighters are reported missing, while an Israeli spokesman said that 40 resistance men were killed.

More Villagers Expelled

NC2605100188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that Israel has expelled 15 more citizens from Shab'a in the South. The area's deputy, Munif al-Khatib, has received telephone calls informing him of this development. The Israeli authorities expelled 15 other Lebanese nationals from the same village 2 days ago.

Meanwhile, between 0755 and 0815 today Israeli planes raided installations and fortifications used by Hizballah as operational bases in Al-Luwayzah, where Israeli military operations against Hizballah positions are taking place. According to reports from the South, these bases have been totally destroyed. The initial report on the raid had stated that it was directed against Hizballah positions in the hills between 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju'. Israeli and South Lebanese Army artillery are continuing their intensive shelling of positions in Mlikh, Al-Nabi Safi, and the 'Ayn Bu Siwar hills.

According to a partial casualty toll, at least 20 Hizballah were killed in yesterday's operations, 22 others were wounded, and 16 were missing after the attack on Al-Luwayzah.

[Paris AFP in English at 0949 GMT on 26 May reports the following: "Describing Thursday's fighting near Al-Luwayzah, an Islamic resistance spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE: 'Our fighters destroyed an Israeli tank and killed or wounded all the members of the crew. This new attack proves that the one carried out yesterday against our positions was a failure.'"]

Two Israeli helicopters last night raided Palestinian positions east of Sidon. One person was killed and two wounded in the raid. At 1030 this morning, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying over the capital.

Further Reportage on Amal-Hizballah Fighting

Islamic Council Statement

NC2505182788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council met under Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din today. Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan, and a number of deputies and scholars participated in the meeting.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council called on the combatants in the suburb to reach an understanding among themselves under the aegis of the Higher Islamic Council in its capacity as the central organizational framework of Shi'ite Muslims in Lebanon.

The statement said that the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council opposes and rejects any scenario in which the fate of the suburb or the fate of Lebanese Shi'ite Muslims is mortgaged to the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon or to any other issue.

The Council also rejects the implementation of political decisions and measures which affect Lebanese Shi'ite Muslims and which are against their will or choice, as well as the imposition of views and political stands upon them, especially if this is accomplished through a force of arms.

The Council also reviewed the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, the continuing Israeli aggression against the inhabitants there, the new wave of escalated attacks on the villages of Iqlim al-Tuffah and the Al-'Urqub region, and the deportation of Lebanese citizens from Shab'a and other villages.

'Limited' Skirmishes

NC2505203988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah fighters in the southern suburb have abated. Limited skirmishes, including the use of machineguns and RPG's, continue to take place, however.

Fighting Enters 20th Day

NC2605121888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The southern suburb is enduring its 20th straight day of violence. According to the most recent reports the combat lines of Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah are the scenes of intermittent clashes involving the use of various types of machineguns and rockets. The same lines also witnessed ferocious battles early today.

Amal Movement sources have stated that the residential quarters of Al-Shiyah, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, and Hayy Farhat were subjected to concentrated shellfire originating from Hizballah artillery emplacements in Sfayr, Bi'r al-'Abd, Hayy Madi, and Tahwitat al-Ghadir. The same sources affirmed that Amal fighters checked advance attempts by Hizballah gunmen last night and early today. Hizballah personnel sustained a number of casualties.

Meanwhile, consultations and contacts are underway on various levels to implement the security plan in the southern suburb. The Amal Movement announced today that a delegation representing the Movement's leadership left for Damascus for talks with senior Syrian officials on the details of the suburb's security plan. Sources [not further identified] have affirmed that implementation of the plan will take place soon.

Birri Says Syrian Forces To Enter Suburb 27 May

NC2605125688 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1250 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] On his return from Damascus today, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri announced that the Syrian Arab forces and internal security forces will begin their deployment in the southern suburb tomorrow. The purpose of their entry is not only to stop the fighting, but also to point the Arab and Islamic compass in the right direction once again, he said.

Al-Rashidiyah Leadership Denounces Abduction

NC2505183488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The leadership of the Palestinian resistance in the Tyre area, the Popular Committee for the Al-Rashidiyah camp, has denounced the kidnapping of the Belgian doctor and called on the Lebanese national forces and the humanitarian organizations to intervene quickly with the parties concerned in the area to work quickly and seriously to bring about his release.

The Popular Committee has called for a general strike on Friday to denounce this incident.

Dr Jan Cools, who was working for a Norwegian humanitarian organization, disappeared last Saturday after leaving Al-Rashidiyah camp, near Tyre. Palestinian sources in the South have affirmed that unidentified persons carried out the kidnapping at the Qana crossroads.

Afghanistan

Soviet Military Supplies Rushed to Kabul Area

BK2505171688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1643 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 25 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has stepped up military supplies to the pro-Soviet government in Kabul to offset recent mujahidin gains, Western diplomats here said Wednesday.

The fresh supplies include long-range missiles and ammunition for the one billion dollars worth of weapons the Soviet troops are leaving behind them for the Aghan Army, they said.

Soviet armoured vehicles and troops also deployed out of Kabul Wednesday to protect the roads from Gardeyz and Ghazni as Soviet forces prepared to pull out of the two cities, the diplomats said.

The mujahidin have captured 18 district centres and provincial towns, including several important garrisons, in the past few weeks as Soviet troops have withdrawn, prompting Moscow to send in fresh supplies, observers said.

A symmetery clause in a U.N.-mediated Geneva peace accord, guaranteed by Moscow and Washington, allows the superpowers to renew military aid to their respective allies if either resumes supply operations, observers noted.

The diplomats said that despite the peace accord, signed on April 14 by Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Soviet Union has continued supplying Kabul.

Soviet aircraft have been arriving mostly at night and the material taken to the Afghan garrisons at Pol-e Charkhi, 15 kilometres (nine miles) east of Kabul, Rish Khvor, 12 kilometres (seven miles) to the south and Karghah, seven kilometres (four miles) to the west, the diplomats said.

They said a convoy of amoured vehicles and at least 15 large flatbed trucks carrying long-range missile batteries had also arrived in Kabul via the vital Salang highway linking the Afghan capital with the Soviet Union.

Soviet Air Force personnel were giving rushed training courses to Afghan pilots who were practising flying transport planes in and out of Kabul, the diplomats said, adding that Afghan trainees had also been sent back from the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, Soviet armoured vehicles moved out of Kabul early Wednesday to guard the Lowgar highway as Soviet troops prepared to withdraw from Gardeyz and Ghazni, the diplomats said.

The Ghazni-Kabul road remained cut following the fall last week of Seyyedabad, meaning troops will have to make a long and perhaps risky detour through Gardeyz to get to the Afghan capital, they said.

"We expect that Soviet troops in Ghazni will evacuate simultaneously with, or soon after, the Gardeyz withdrawal," they said.

Heavy night helicopter traffic from Kabul to the south and southwest over the past 10 days "suggests the withdrawal from Ghazni may already have begun."

Observers said the Soviet withdrawal from Gardeyz was particularly important, as it would mean the end of Kabul's hold on the eastern garrison town of Khowst, a considerable blow to its control of Paktia Province bordering Pakistan.

Kabul has sent Tribal Affairs Minister Sulayman La'eq to Gardeyz, in his home province, to address local elders while Defence Minister Muhammad Rafi' has gone to Qandahar on a similar mission, the diplomats said, adding that the government's position in Qandahar was "very weak."

The mujahidin say Afghanistan's second largest city will fall in a matter of days once Soviet troops leave.

Meanwhile, a cabinet reshuffle, expected later this week, will see the departure of several ministers including Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand to make way for "non-party" members, apparently a move to appease opponents of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), the diplomats said.

Deputy Premier Hasan Sharq, who heads the refugee repatriation office "appears to be encouraging speculation that he will be named prime minister," the diplomats said, noting rumours that another non-PDPA figure, possibly a senior refugee figure could fill the post.

'Extremist Elements' Attack Faryab Capital

LD2505223888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Extremist elements using heavy arms fired on residential areas of Meymaneh, the capital of Faryab Province, today and yesterday, martyring a number of our compatriots through this criminal act.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that, as a result of this inhuman, crinimal, and treacherous act by the extremist elements, 6 of our compatriots were martyred and 18 others including children, women, and old people were wounded. As many as three vehicles were destroyed and a number of houses were damaged as a result of this treacherous act.

Shell Jaji Meydan; Casualties

LD2505113788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 May 88

[Text] Elements connected with extremist groups destroyed a mosque in Jaji Meydan with heavy weapons fire, martyring two compatriots. The mosque housed a stock of tens of the holy Koran.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that these criminals fired heavy weapons on the residential area of Jaji Meydan district, destroying a mosque and five houses. Two compatriots were martyred by the barbaric act of the enemies of peace.

According to another report from the BAKHTAR military section, the extremists, who act against reconciliation and peace, have attacked Meymaneh, the capital of Faryab.

The report adds that as a result of the heavy weapons fire, 11 innocent compatriots were injured and 2 vehicles completely destroyed.

Najibullah Sends Congratulations to Grosz, Kadar

LD2605090888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 25, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC) sent a congratulatory message to Budapest addressed to Karoly Grosz, on his election as general secretary of Hungarian Socialist Workers Party.

The message expresses hope for the further strengthening of the existing brotherly and friendly ties between the parties, states and peoples of the two countries in the interests of international peace and security.

President Najibullah, also sent a congratulatory message to Janos Kadar, on his election as chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party.

Wakil Leaves for Havana Nonaligned Conference

LD2505175988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil left for Havana this afternoon at the head of a delegation to take part in the meeting of foreign ministers of the member states of the Nonaligned movement' Coordinating Bureau.

Minister of State Security Ghulam Faruq, officials and senior members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were on hand to say farewell to the foreign minister and his accompanying delegation.

News Conference on Geneva Accords, 'Violations'

LD2505184688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] At the broadcasting center today a news conference was held by the Republic of Afghanistan on the Geneva accords and the Republic of Pakistan's violation of some articles of the Geneva accords. Present were journalists representing the country's media.

BAKHTAR reports that the news conference was attended by Farid Zarif; Brigadier General Khetab Janbaz, head of the foreign relations department at the Defense Ministry; and 'Abdul Ghafur Jawshan, head of the UN and International Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is also in charge of the Foreign Minkstry liaison office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP]. They answered journalists' questions.

During the news conference it was stated that the Republic of Afghanistan is fully observing the Geneva accords. However, the Republic of Pakistan has taken limited measures in this regard and has violated some articles of the agreements. The UNGOMAP office in Kabul has been informed of these violations in separate nmeetings and through separate memoranda.

Mujahidin Hezbollah Leader Rejects Geneva Accords

LD2505191788 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., May 25, IRNA—The Geneva agreement reached under the influence of global arrogance and to the benefit of superpowers does not secure the demands of Afghan Muslim people and is therefore doomed to fail, said the Afghan Hezbollah leader and spokesman for the Islamic coalition of seven Afghan parties, Qari Ahmad 'Ali here today.

The withdrawal of the occupying Russian forces is considered by the Islamic coalition as a positive move, but it is wishful thinking that their pull-out would solve the Afghan problem, said the commander who is here to inspect the Afghan refugee camps.

An agreement on Afghanistan would be achieved only if the proposals of all parties, organizations, and groups—the real representatives of Afghan people—are taken into consideration, he added.

On the so-called coalition of eight [as received] Afghan parties in Pakistan, "backed by global arrogance and the Pakistani Government," he said such a coalition cannot render an "acceptable and comprehensive plan for the future of the country despite the propaganda tirade by Western mass media."

Bangladesh

Ershad Appoints New Minister of Cultural Affairs

BK2505161788 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] President Ershad today appointed Mr Nur Mohammad Khan, MP, as a state minister. The president administered the oath of office of Mr Khan at his secretariat this afternoon. Mr Nur Mohammad has been allocated the portfolio of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The president yesterday created the new Ministry of Cultural Affairs which was formerly a division under the Ministry of Education.

Accord To Expand Trade With Romania

BK2505162388 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Bangladesh and Romania have agreed to develop and diversify their bilateral trade in a balanced way through exchange of new products and removal of the existing trade imbalance. The accord was reached at the 3-day meeting of the joint commission on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries which ended in Dhaka today. Both the sides also agreed to conclude the barter protocol as soon as possible, providing exchange of goods and commodities worth U.S. $15-20 million each way.

India

Demonstration at Pakistan Embassy Held 25 May

BK2505161988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Workers of the Shiv Sena [right-wing Hindu militant party] and members of the migrant families from Punjab held a demonstration near the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi. They were protesting against Pakistan's alleged interference in the internal affairs of India. The demonstrators urged the Pakistan government to stop aiding and abetting terrorists in Punjab.

Gandhi Rules Out Further Dividing Country

BK2605045188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The prime minister says the government is determined to root out terrorism. Speaking to newsmen at Ranchi airport on arrival yesterday, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the flushing out of terrorists from the Golden Temple complex was the first major step in this direction. He said the Punjab governor will decide on the follow-up action. Mr Gandhi said that the process of eliminating terrorism will continue relentlessly. Later, addressing a public meeting, he said people from all communities, including the Sikhs, extended their cooperation to the government to flush out terrorists from the temple complex.

Mr Gandhi ruled out any further division of the country. He said our great leaders, like Mahatma Gandhi, stood for secularism, tolerance, and unity, which are the foundations for a strong nation.

About tribal welfare schemes, the prime minister pointed out that the successful implementation of the programs will bring about better economic conditions. The prime minister assured the people that more thrust will be given to provide jobs for the youths and to rural uplift. He said more emphasis will also be laid on irrigation programs which will benefit small farmers. He commended the Bihar government for properly utilizing the central assistance allocated to them. On his arrival at Ranchi airport, Mr Gandhi was received by the state governor, Mr Govind Narain Singh, the chief minister, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad, and his cabinet colleagues.

Gurkha 'Activists' Bomb Darjeeling TV Center

BK2505161388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Several incidents of violence and bomb explosions have been reported from different parts of Darjeeling hill areas during the last 24 hours. Police sources told our Kurseong correspondent that GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists exploded a powerful bomb at the TV relay center in Darjeeling this afternoon. The explosion caused minor damage to the building, but the transmission equipment was not affected. GNLF militants ambushed security forces twice in the Seventh Mile in Kalimpong. They threw a number of bombs and fired several rounds. Security men returned the fire to chase away the miscreants. There is no report of any casualty.

Border Kutch People To Receive Identity Cards

BK2605034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] About 75,000 identity cards are to be issued to people living in villages along the Kutch area of the India-Pakistan border. Speaking to AIR Bhuj correspondent, the district collector said that the work relating to the preparation and issue of identity cards is likely to be completed by the 10th of September this year. In the first phase, a pilot scheme introduced under the border development program has been taken up covering 64 villages in 3 pockets along the border.

EXPRESS Calls for End to Nuclear Expansion

BK2505103888 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 May 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Nuclear Power Secrets"]

[Text] Although the government has denied the recent allegation, made in a Norwegian newspaper report, that 15 tonnes of radioactive heavy water shipped from Norway to a West German enterprise in 1983 was diverted to India through Switzerland and Dubai, it

must still explain how India has met its heavy water requirements. Despite its efforts to restrict information on the country's nuclear power programme, some of the facts have emerged through the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor general [CAG]. These reveal several significant facts which have a bearing on the suspicion that India may have tried to bypass international regulations which prohibit countries like Norway, Canada and the Soviet Union from supplying to countries like India which do not accept fullscope international inspection of their nuclear facilities.

The CAG report on the Tuticorin heavy water plant, which was commissioned in 1978, reveals that it has functioned at only 20.6 percent of its installed capacity in the last eight years. Production losses amount to a staggering Rs 123.97 crore and the plant, which produces 60 percent of the country's heavy water requirements, operated on only 1,284 days against 2,550 available days. The record of the Talcher heavy water plant is even worse; in 12 years it has produced virtually nothing. The fact that indigenous supplies of heavy water have not sufficed is also evident from the CAG report on the Madras Atomic Power Plant at Kalpakkam, that the delay in its commissioning was due to a shortage of heavy water. The government has also now admitted that it had to import heavy water from the Soviet Union for the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant, one of whose units has had to be permanently shut down due to an irreparable crack in its end-shield.

It is clear from these and other facts that India is in no position to meet its requirements of heavy water if it is to pursue its goal of increasing the installed capacity from the present 1,250 MW to an incredible 10,000 MW by 2000 AD. Therefore, the Prime Minister's statement that India is self-sufficient in heavy water is fallacious. The CAG reports also reiterate a fact now acknowledged in many countries, that the economics of nuclear power are not really attractive. This is especially true in India where interminable delays and low production make the unit cost of nuclear power uneconomic. As important are the safety aspects on which there is little reason for confidence in Indian reactors. The government must therefore explain on what grounds it is continuing to pursue nuclear power plans when so many factors militate against further expansion.

Iran

Khamene'i Interviewed on 'Zolfaqar-3' Exercise

LD2505185988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, was interviewed by reporters at the end of the final stages of the Zolfaqar-3 maneuvers. In the interview, concerning the maneuvers and how they compared with previous ones he said:

The maneuvers began 4 days ago and, of course, I have been participating in them since yesterday. They were both more comprehensive and more effective than previous naval maneuvers primarily because the naval vessels which were used had not been used in previous exercises. Therefore, a greater number of combative, logistical and [word indistinct] vessels took part.

Secondly, these maneuvers were participated in by the three branches of the armed forces, (?although) the navy and the air force were more active. The ground forces participated in the amphibious operations with full combat readiness. On the whole, these were the (?best) maneuvers ever, and I hope they will play a fumdamental role in the improvement of our combat capacity. I also hope they will be effective from the point of view of gaining experience in coordinating the army's three forces. [words indistinct]

In connection with the recent U.S. aggression against Iranian oil platforms and vessels and the enemy's [word indistinct] propaganda in this regard, Mr Khamene'i said:

This propaganda [words indistinct] is a part of their ploy of arrogance. Our military capacity has not only not decreased, but, on the contrary, has increased. In addition, alongside the combative and well-disciplined force of the army, we also have the naval force of the guards corps at sea, which undertakes operations suitable to it.

With regard to the effects of the maneuvers on Iran's future relations with the countries in the region, Mr Khamene'i said:

These maneuvers should, logically, make our relations with the region's countries warmer and closer. We have always said to the region's countries that the Persian Gulf is a sensitive area. It contains 60 percent of the industrial world's oil reserves. The world will need these reserves for tens of years to come. If there were closeness between the governments of these countries, it would be impossible for those who are seeking their own interests to take advantage.

For this reason, since the beginning of the victory of the revolution, arrogance has tried to keep the (?two sides) of the Persian Gulf disunited so that, with its own influence, it can rule the region. We have always had a (?message of friendship) for the countries in the region and we have proved with these maneuvers that we have a (?powerful) presence in the region. We can control our own area and oil region and we will allow others to have just relations with us on the basis of equality.

In connection with the exhibition by the self-sufficiency jihad section of the navy, which took place on the deck of one of the participating vessels, the president said:

Their actions are praiseworthy, but my expectation of the self-sufficiency movement is greater than this. I have always said to military officials and commanders that the root of our real strength and power is in the vitality of the self-sufficiency jihad. If we are dependent on others in military matters, we will never achieve true independence and the cure for this is precisely the self-sufficiency jihad.

Majlis Speaker Confers With Envoy to Moscow

LD2505153388 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Naser Heyrani-Nobari conferred with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today and briefed him on the latest developments in the region and Tehran-Moscow relations.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in reply gave necessary guidelines about regional situation and Iran-Soviet ties.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Withdrawal From Shalamcheh

LD2505164988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Following an intense encounter with the forces of the enemy which began at dawn today in the region of Shalamcheh, the fighters of Islam have had to withdraw from part of the captured positions. According to the reports, during the intense encounter of the fighters of Islam with the forces of the enemy, the fighters of Islam succeeded in inflicting casualties and damages on the enemy. The same report states: In the course of the encounter of the forces of Islam against the Ba'thist forces, our forces took a number of Iraqi military personnel prisoner.

The fighters of Islam are currently stationed in new positions and are responding to the heavy fire of the enemy artillery.

Darband-i Khan Attack Repulsed

LD2505171988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The Zionist enemy's counterattack in the general area of Darband-i Khan was repulsed and severely crushed through the vigilance and bravery of the combatants of Islam.

According to IRNA, units from the 1st Army Corps of the Iraqi aggressor army intended to attack the positions of Islam's combatants in the Shaykh Shermiran region. They met with the timely reaction of the combatants of Islam. According to the report, the enemy's operational forces, which also had the benefit of aerial support, were forced to retreat after several hours of engagement with the combatants of Islam and after leaving behind a considerable number of dead and wounded.

In repulsing the enemy counterattack, the combatants of Islam, in addition to setting on fire and destroying a significant amount of the equipment of the Zionist Iraqi Army, also captured a number of enemy troops.

Communique No 3,213

LD2505170388 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in four sorties heavily bombed Iraqi positions in Shalamcheh, southern fronts, at 11:55, 12:55, 13:25 and 14:05 hours local times (08:25, 09:25, 09:55 and 10:35 GMT) Wednesday.

Announcing the above here today, the 3213th Joint Staff communique said all fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on Iraqi troops.

Several civilians were martyred and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed several residential points in Sar Dasht, northwestern Iran, today.

The Islamic Republic Air Force also carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Tuesday to provide air cover for the navy and reconnoiter foreign vessels in the waterway.

Iran's naval units, in addition to continuing "Zolfaqar-3" military exercises in the Oman Sea yesterday, carried out their routine patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman in defence of Iranian islands and oil rigs.

On the battlefields, Muslim forces of Iran continued fire exchanges with Iraqi forces yesterday, killing and wounding some enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements.

In the northwestern fronts, heavey fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked movements of Iraqi tanks in Hajj 'Umran and Panjwin, and enemy logistical activities in Sayyid Sadiq Tuesday, inflicting some casualties and losses on the enemy.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several bunkers destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie force Tuesday, concluded the communique.

Volunteer Forces Mobilized

LD2605111388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] In response to the IRGC central headquarters' appeal to fresh mobilization forces from around the country to go to the fronts there has been a new wave of the volunteer mobilization movement.

The Central News Unit reports that a large number of mobilization volunteer forces from Sari, Now Shahr, Gorgan, Babol, Amol, Suldeh, Deh Shur, Neka, Babol Sur, Qa'emshahr and Sakht Sar and caravan of the standard-bearers of the corps of His Holiness Mohammad from Arak, Khomeyn, Saveh, Mahallat, Tafresh, Delijan, Sarband, and Ashtian left for the war regions in the past 24 hours and were warmly seen off by the population. In the same period a group of mobilization volunteers from Meybod in Yazd an a number of IRGC personnel from the Chahar Mahal via Bakhtiari Province left for the war fronts.

Navy Continues Ship Inspections in Gulf of Oman

LD2605091588 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Aboard the command warship, Oman Sea, May 26, IRNA—Tens of foreign ships suspected of carrying goods for Iraq were inspected throughout the five-day long Zolfaqar-3 maneuvers in the international waters of Oman Sea, said a naval commander here Wednesday.

All the ships were allowed to proceed after their cargo was inspected, he added.

The commander said that the inspection showed that the Iranian Navy was able to launch the maneuvers, the greatest ever and the most successful and at the same time continue inspecting suspected ships in the international waters of Oman Sea, Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. He said that the Navy will continue to inspect ships in future.

Editorial on USSR Withdrawal From Afghanistan

PM2505154788 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 May 88 p 16

[Editorial by Yunes Shokrkhah: "The Open File for Afghanistan"]

[Text] The conflict in Afghanistan has still not ended, after 8 years of war and 6 years of negotiations. The withdrawal of the Soviets is in reality the end of a chapter of occupation in an international diplomatic file called the Afghanistan crisis.

The Soviet position for pulling out, which was announced 8 February 1988 by Gorbachev, is an effort on the part of the Soviet leadership to heal the "bleeding wound that is Afghanistan." From Moscow's viewpoint, the withdrawal from Afghanistan is to put an end to the U.S. policy of "bleeding the Soviets in Afghanistan." Finally, it has to do with Gorbachev's policy of economic reform in the Soviet Union. These are the reasons why this withdrawal has been forced on Moscow.

To solve its economic problems Moscow has to withdraw its financial resources inside its borders, so the pullout has to be seen within the framework of the new inward-looking foreign policy of the Soviets. Following the withdrawal, the Soviet Union will try to have its wishes carried out through native elements, the regime of Najibullah if he stays and the Khalq Democratic Party.

As far as Moscow is concerned, the game has not finished yet. It is hoping to save its own elements in Afghanistan in the shape of a political force and, at least, both Khalqi and Parchami factions. These two groups, following the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, will have to put aside their differences to face the mujahidin. Realizing this point, Moscow is hoping the two factions form a classic dependence on the Soviet Union so that it may have some say in the political life of Afghanistan.

Of course, this will only happen if Moscow has the hindsight to evaluate the regional balance correctly. In other words, the withdrawal is taking place to make up for the "big mistake" which was the occupation of Afghanistan in 1979. This big mistake must not be replaced by another, even bigger, mistake. That can only be guaranteed if Moscow can be sure of controlling the events and consequences of its withdrawal.

The Soviet leadership is aware that the United States will continue its policy of inflicting more blows on the Soviets in Afghanistan. One example of this is the fact that, despite the Geneva accord, the Americans have still not halted arms deliveries to their forces. Moscow is aware of a U.S. effort to impose American-type rule on Afghanistan, so it needs a strong element, not only to control future events in Kabul but also to prevent an American-type regime in Afghanistan. This element must also provide some sort of a balance with regard to the strong presence of Islamabad and Beijing. In general, New Delhi does not count in this equation.

Perhaps the best decision for Moscow is to choose an Asian capital whose spiritual presence in Afghanistan has given it an automatic place in the formula. The wisest thing for the Soviets is to remove the barricades that are preventing that Asian capital from blocking any U.S. influence in the future of Afghanistan—something the Soviets can no longer guarantee.

Another section of the file on Afghanistan indicates two conflicts: one involving the mujahidin against the Kabul regime, and the other a power struggle within the Afghan revolutionary forces.

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries must consider the second conflict their most vulnerable point, and, by avoiding that conflict, must concentrate all their efforts

on the confrontation with Kabul. The Soviet withdrawal is the beginning of the final conflict, because the international developments with regard to the Afghan issue took place without the participation of the real owners and representatives of the Afghan revolution. So the final conflict has to be concentrated on the first war, which is the one against the regime in Kabul. The mujahidin must continue this trend with awareness.

Of course, the return of 5 million refugees will create many political and economic problems. By stressing the points mentioned below, the issues could be solved to a certain extent in favor of the mujahidin and the innocent Muslim people of Afghanistan:

1. The return of the refugees to their own land—which could be compared to the great immigration of the 1940's in the Indian subcontinent—as well as the reconstruction of the country will create their own special economic issues. The Islamic revolutionaries must stay away from any plan that reeks of the "Marshall Plan." Accepting such plans will make Afghanistan dependent.

2. Ideological issues must not give any country the excuse to launch ideological wars. The awareness of the mujahidin must foil the plots of the reactionary Arab leaders and those carrying banners for an American-type Islam.

3. The commanders and forces which have pursued military struggles inside Afghanistan must not disregard the political works of those forces outside Afghanistan. The two movements in the country must never allow this issue to become the maneuvering place of East and West.

4. The final word: The Muslim revolutionaries must not fan the flames of civil war, since this was the excuse for the Soviet presence in the first place. If that happens, others may come. To make another Lebanon out of Afghanistan will never be in the interest of the Islamic revolution in that country.